

Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

Statutory Authority:

Duties and organization of the Foster Care Review Board are outlined in 43-1301 to 43-1318, Rev. Stat. Nebr., 1942, (1983 Cum. Sup.) The FCRB is the state IV-E review agency. The plans, services and placements of children in out of home care 6 months or longer are reviewed by citizen volunteers to assure children are safe, secure, and moving into permanent homes in compliance with PL 96-272, findings are shared with all legal parties, child caring facilities are toured, current information is maintained on a tracking system, and data is disseminated through an annual report. When deemed appropriate by the state board, a request to appear in further court hearings

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Foster Care Review Board is that every child and youth in out of home care live in a safe, permanent home, experience an enduring relationship with one or more caring adults, and have every opportunity to grow up to become a responsible, productive adult.

The Board works to ensure this by reviewing cases and making recommendations to focus the case towards permanency for the child, visiting facilities, tracking children, and taking legal standing on cases where the Board believes the children and youth's best interests are not being met. The Board collects & disseminates data, findings and recommendations through the annual report and other means.

Mission Statement:

The State Foster Care Review Board's mission is to ensure the best interests of children in out-of-home care are being met through external citizen review, monitoring facilities that house children and youth, maintaining up-to-date data on a statewide tracking system, through legal standing, and by disseminating data and recommendations through an Annual Report.

Goals:

1. Operate and maintain a computerized tracking system of all children in out-of-home care on the state main frame.
2. Review all children and youth in out-of-home care to assure they have permanency plans and timely and appropriate services.
3. Monitor children's placements to assure safety and appropriateness and act on concerns regarding placements.
4. Improve the foster care experience for children in out-of-home care.
5. Communicate information on children in out-of-home care.
6. Maintain the agencies focus on fiscal management.
7. Continue to use technology to improve staff efficiency and communication.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	1,169,560	1,134,558	1,134,558	1,078,648	1,134,558	1,116,404
Cash Fund	9,982	6,000	8,810	8,844	6,000	8,844
Federal Fund	543,436	680,256	680,256	690,204	683,066	696,677
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,722,978	1,820,814	1,823,624	1,777,696	1,823,624	1,821,925

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Program 116 - Administration & Operations

Program Objectives:

1. Track all children in out-of-home care per statute & collect, verify, and clarify information submitted by HHS, Courts, private agencies, & detention centers
2. Review at least 90% of the IV-E eligible children who have been in care for 6 months+, per federal law.
3. Streamline & focus the Board's review process to maintain # of reviews + maximize the impact of the reviews.
4. Determine if children's placements are safe & appropriate through the review process & respond when placement concerns are identified
5. Promote safety, security, and permanency for children by communicating pertinent issues
6. Communicate information on children in care by an annual report and other means
7. Continue to implement recommendations regarding internal controls of disbursements & property.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	1,169,560	1,134,558	1,134,558	1,078,648	1,134,558	1,116,404
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Performance Measures:

The Foster Care Review Board is a key player in assuring children and youth in out-of-home care are safe and accounted for. This has been accomplished by:

1. Tracking 62,475 children and youth from 1983 through December 31, 2001 and tracking the placement changes, court hearings, child's case manager of over 11,000 children and youth annually; recording the FCRB findings, recommendations, and barriers; and the tracking system is used to schedule children's 6 month reviews;
2. Conducting 6,017 reviews of children's plans during 2001 as the IV-E review agency for the state;
3. Through the reviews of children's plans the Board identifies over 600 cases a year where additional work is needed to resolve placement, safety, permanency, visitation, and service concerns pertaining to the child's safety and well-being.
4. Touring 25 facilities annually with HHS and with local board members to assure children's health and safety needs are met.

Description	FY02 Actual	FY03 Current	FY04 Request	FY05 Request
Maintained Computer Records	62475	65725	68975	72225
Children added to the Tracking System	2994	3250	3250	3250
HHS, Court, Plcmt Docs recvd & processed	100250	101000	102000	103000
HHS Docs needing research before entry	25,169 (42%)	42%	42%	42%
Reviews Conducted	6017	6478	6800	6800
Volunteer Hours Donated	33660	38868	40800	40800
Reports sent to legal parties	42105	45346	47600	47600
cases resolved without court involvement	620	620	620	620
Tours of child careing facilities	25	25	25	25
Educational Programs Statewide	25	25	25	25